

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 13.

Sub.B<sup>1</sup>)  
A1 Claim 6 (amended). The gathering stapler according to claim 23, which comprises a central control device controlling said motor control units.

A2 Claim 8 (amended). The gathering stapler according to claim 23, wherein at least one of said motor control units includes a microprocessor.

A3 Claim 10 (amended). The gathering stapler according to claim 23, wherein at least one of said motor control units has a programmable control device for said motor of a respective one of said drives.

Claim 11 (amended). The gathering stapler according to claim 23, wherein at least one of said motor control units has an input/output unit for programmable control.

Claim 12 (amended). The gathering stapler according to claim 23, wherein at least one of said motor control units comprises a motor controller and a motor-control end stage.

As  
Claim 14 (amended). The gathering stapler according to claim 10, which further comprises a display device and an operating panel connected to said at least one motor control unit.

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Add the Following New Claims:

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Sub. aa' > Claim 20 (new). A gathering stapler, comprising:

A5  
a plurality of cooperating subassemblies including an operatively revolving endless chain having a conveying strand running in a conveying direction at a certain speed and conveying gathered folded sheets;

a stapling carriage attached to said conveying strand and operatively oscillating in parallel with said conveying strand for running in synchronicity with said conveying strand in the conveying direction within certain time segments;

stapling heads mounted to said stapling carriage and adapted for ejecting staples;

a stapling displacement configuration adapted for activating said stapling heads for ejecting said staples;

a delivery;

Cont  
AS  
an ejector adapted for operatively oscillating in parallel with said conveying strand for running in synchronicity with said conveying strand in the conveying direction within certain time segments and for operatively oscillating between said conveying strand and said delivery within a path rectilinear to said conveying strand within certain time segments; and

a plurality of subassembly drives;

at least some of said subassembly drives each including a controllable motor.

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Claim 21 (new). The gathering stapler according to claim 20, wherein a first one of said plurality of subassembly drives includes a controllable motor connected to said chain and a second one of said plurality of subassembly drives includes a controllable motor connected to said stapling carriage.

Claim 22 (new). The gathering stapler according to claim 21, wherein a third one of said plurality of subassembly drives includes a controllable motor connected to said stapling displacement configuration.

*cont*  
*A5*  
Claim 23 (new). The gathering stapler according to claim 20,  
including motor control units each connected to a respective  
one of said motors.

Claim 24 (new). The gathering stapler according to claim 23,  
wherein at least one of said motor control units includes a  
revolution speed detector.

Claim 25 (new). The gathering stapler according to claim 23,  
wherein at least one of said motor control units includes a  
phasing detector.

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